

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 07770 261209Z

43

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PRS-01 ERDA-05 ACDA-07 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

NSC-05 INRE-00 USIE-00 /055 W
----- 085619

O R 261123Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9183

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CNO

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

COMSEVENTHFLT

CTF SEVEN SEVEN

CTF SEVEN FIVE

USS LONG BEACH

AMCONSUL MELBOURN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 7770

SECDEF FOR ISA

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MNUC, OCLR, AS, US

SUBJECT: USS LONG BEACH VISIT TO MELBOURNE

1. ADOD FIRST ASSIST. SEC. HAMILTON CALLED ON ME TODAY
(OCTOBER 26) TO INFORM ME THAT THE LONG BEACH WILL NOT REPEAT
NOT BE PERMITTED TO BERTH AT PRINCES PIER IN MELBOURNE ON
OCTOBER 30 AND MUST ANCHOR IN PORT PHILLIP BAY 3 TO 4 MILES
FROM PORT MELBOURNE. REASON GIVEN WAS THAT FOUR DIFFERENT
SHIPS (AMERICAN, RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH CRUISE SHIPS AND AN
ITALIAN PASSENGER LINER), ALL CARRYING SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS
OF PASSENGERS, WOULD BE TIED UP AT STATION PIER, WHICH IS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 07770 261209Z

LESS THAN 600 METERS FROM PRINES PIER, ONE EACH DAY

FROM OCTOBER 29 UNTIL EARLY A.M. NOVEMBER 3. AUSTRALIAN PUBLISHED "ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS OF VISITS OF NPWS" PROVIDES THAT IN CASE OF A SIGNIFICANT RELEASE OF RADIOACTIVITY AUTHORITIES MUST BE IN POSITION TO EVACUATE ALL PERSONS WITHIN 600 METERS OF A NPW "IMMEDIATELY". THIS TERM HAS JUST BEEN DEFINED BY THE AUSTRALIAN AEC AS 20 MINUTES IN THIS CASE WHERE THE SHIPS ARE ONLY SOME 400 METERS DISTANT. AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED BY THE FACT THAT THE ITALIAN SHIP GALILEO, TRANSPORTING 1200 LARGELY NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS TO AUSTRALIA, WILL BE TIED UP AT STATION PIER OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 1. VICTORIAN STATE POLICE HAVE INDICATED THEY CANNOT ASSURE EVACUATION OF ALL SUCH IMMIGRANTS AND VISITORS (INCLUDING MANY CHILDREN) WITHIN THE 20 MINUTE LIMIT.

2. ADOD REQUESTS THAT LONG BEACH ANCHOR OUT UNTIL EARLY A.M. NOVEMBER 3 AND THEN DOCK AT PRINCES PIER, WEATHER AND OTHER OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS PERMITTING, FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF LAST SHIP. ADOD SECOND CHOICE WOULD BE FOR LONG BEACH TO REMAIN ANCHORED OUT DURING ENTIRE MELBOURNE VISIT.

3. GOA CITES POLITICAL REASONS, NAMELY THE ADVANTAGE OF LONG BEACH TYING UP AT PIER IN SAME FASHION AS TRUXTON UNDER COMPARABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, FOR ITS PREFERENCE THAT LONG BEACH MOVE TO THE DOCK NOVEMBER 3-6.

4. HAMILTON MADE CLEAR DEFMIN KILLEN HAD APPROVED THIS GOA POSITION AND SAID THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF REVERSAL OF GOA DECISION AT ADOD LEVEL. IN FACT, HAMILTON'S CALL ON ME WAS IN RESPONSE TO MY TELEPHONE APPEAL EARLIER TODAY TO KILLEN WHO IS IN BRISBANE.

5. IN OUR VIEW IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN REVERSAL OF DECISION WITHOUT APPEALING TO PM FRASER. EVEN IF THE APPEAL WERE GRANTED, IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT OUR PART IN SECURING REVERSAL WOULD BE LEAKED TO THE PRESS WITH RESULTANT ADVERSE PUBLICITY AND DAMAGE TO GOA'S CREDIBILITY IN PUBLISHED ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARD STATEMENT. WE REALIZE THAT THE LONG BEACH'S ANCHORING OUT DURING THE PRESENCE OF PASSANGER SHIPS AT NEARBY DOCK

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CANBER 07770 261209Z

COULD SET A HARMFUL PRECEDENT FOR OTHER NPW VISITS IN AUSTRALIA AND ELSEWHERE. FOR THIS REASON YOU MAY WISH TO KEEP LONG BEACH AT ANCHOR DURING THE ENTIRE MELBOURNE VISIT CITING OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES, I.E., LACK OF AVAILABILITY OF TUGS AND LARGER SIZE OF LONG BEACH COMPARED TO TRUXTON, FOR NOT DOCKING. THIS WOULD GIVE A MINOR "VICTORY" TO DOCK WORKERS AND THEIR "BLACK BAN" BUT WOULD NOT BE OVERLY IMPORTANT POLITICALLY. HOWEVER, THE GOA AND VICTORIAN

PREMIER HAMER CLEARLY PREFER THAT THE LONG BEACH DOCK ON
OR AFTER NOVEMBER 3.

6. I PERSONALLY REGRET THIS PROBLEM ARISING AT THIS LATE
HOUR AND HAVE INDICATED MY UNHAPPINESS TO HAMILTON. I
BELIEVE GOA IS ALSO EMBARRASSED AT TIMING BUT APPARENTLY
ESTABLISHMENT OF 20 MINUTE CRITERION BY AEC AND
OPINION OF POLICE THAT SUCH AN EVACUATION (ESPECIALLY
OF THE GALILEO) WAS UNFEASIBLE OCCURRED JUST OVER
WEEKEND. EXCEPT FOR THIS PROBLEM OF DOCKING
AND FACT THAT TUGS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE BECAUSE OF
UNION BANS, MELBOURNE IS SET TO WELCOME LONG BEACH IN
FINE FASHION. I UNDERSTAND THERE MAY BE REAL PROBLEM
IN DOCKING WITHOUT TUGS IN ANY EVENT IF WEATHER IS NOT
GOOD.

7. REQUEST GUIDANCE SOONEST.
HARGROVE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PORT CONGESTION, LONG BEACH USS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CANBER07770
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760399-0589
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761019/aaaaappi.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USS LONG BEACH VISIT TO MELBOURNE
TAGS: MARR, MNUC, OCLR, AS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006